



Present simple

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The simple present, present simple or present indefinite is one of the verb forms associated with the present tense in modern English. It is commonly referred to as a tense, although it also encodes certain information about aspect in addition to present time. The simple present is the most commonly used verb form in English, accounting for more than half of verbs in spoken English.

It is called "simple" because its basic form consists of a single word (like write or writes), in contrast with other present tense forms such as the present progressive (is writing) and present perfect (has written). For nearly all English verbs the simple present is identical to the base form (dictionary form) of the verb, except when the subject is third-person singular, in which case the ending -(e)s is added. There are a few verbs with irregular forms, the most notable being the copula be, which has the simple present forms am, is, and are.

Use

1. **Regular habits or daily routine:** Use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event or something that often happens.

Examples: - I play soccer

The school opens every morning at 7 AM.

He always forgets her bag.

Every twelve months, the Earth circles the Sun.

2. **Facts or generalizations:** The Simple Present can also indicate the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is not important if the speaker is correct about the fact. It is also used to make generalizations about people or things.

Examples: - Cats like milk.

Caracas is the capital of Venezuela

Windows are not made of wood.

3. **Scheduled Events in the Near Future:** Speakers occasionally use Simple Present to talk about scheduled events in the near future. This is most commonly done when talking about public transportation, but it can be used with other scheduled events as well.

Examples: - The bus leaves tonight at 6 PM.

When do we board the plane?

The party starts at 8 o'clock.

The present simple is used with adverbs like:

- Always: I always come to school by car
- Often: I don't come here very often
- Usually: He usually eats breakfast at 7:00 AM
- Sometimes: Sometimes I go to party
- Never: He is never late for class
- Every day: They sleep early every day

Grammar rules

1. To form the Simple Present we add -s to the infinitive of the verb in the 3rd person singular (he, she, it)

Examples: - I live → He/she/it lives

I sing → He/she/it sings

2. But when the verb ends in

a) -o, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x we add -es

Examples: - I go → He/she/it goes

I kiss → He/she/it kisses

I watch → He/she/it watches

I wash → He/she/it washes

I fix → He/she/it fixes

b) a consonant followed by -y, the -y changes into -ie and we add -s

Examples: - I study → He/she studies

c) A vowel followed by -y we just add -s

Examples: - I play → He/she plays

3. To form the negative and the interrogative we need the Auxiliary verb to do in the present simple. This means we have to add -es in the 3rd person singular (he, she, it) while the main verb will be used in the infinitive.

Examples: -	I	I
Do	You Like?	You don't like
	They	They
	She	She
Does	He Like?	He doesn't like
	It	It

Grammar Structure

- **Affirmative**

Subject + verb (add -e, -es to the 3rd person singular) + complement

- **Negative**

Subject + aux. do/does + not + verb + complement

- **Interrogative**

aux. Do/does + subject + verb + complement +?

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I live	I don't live	Do I live?
You live	You don't live	Do you live?
He live <u>s</u>	He do <u>es</u> n't live	Do <u>es</u> he live?
She live <u>s</u>	She do <u>es</u> n't live	Do <u>es</u> she live?
It live <u>s</u>	It do <u>es</u> n't live	Do <u>es</u> it live?
We live	We don't live	Do we live?
You live	You don't live	Do you live?
They live	They don't live	Do they live?

Present Simple Wh- Questions with the auxiliaries “do” and “does”

What do you do on Saturday morning? -I have breakfast in a restaurant

does she do on weekdays? -She does exercise.

When do you go to school? - We go to school on weekdays

does he play - He plays soccer on Wednesday

Reference

1. "Simple Present Tense". Ginseng English. Retrieved 2018-08-16.
2. Verb Tenses: Simple Present
3. <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/simple-present/>
4. The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar